Summer Evening Picnic at Indian Fishery

Wednesday June 5 - 5 PM

Mt. Lassen Chapter’s annual picnic will be at the Indian Fishery Day Use Area of Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park. Head west on West Sacramento Ave, turn right on River Road. Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage. Plates and cutlery will be provided. Bring a chair to pull up to the Chapter’s folding table and one of the cement picnic tables.

According to the State Park website Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park preserves a fine example of a disappearing natural resource - the riverine habitat. Surrounded by a beautiful oak woodland, Indian Fishery is at the edge of an ox bow lake which had been a bend in the Sacramento River.

The riparian plant and animal communities here depend strongly on each other. Massive oaks and cottonwoods give the dense shade needed for the survival of cool-water creatures. Thick understories of elderberry, wild grape, blackberry, wild rose and numerous perennials provide shelter to a diversified wildlife population. Birds abound. It is common to observe river otters darting through the water, turtles basking on a fallen tree, or herons stalking a meal.

California pipevine grows on the fences and trees in the area, so expect to see many Pipevine Swallow Tail Butterflies and their caterpillars.

Steven King of Altacal Audubon has compiled seasonal bird lists for the area (http://www.altacal.org/birding-sites/BidwellSacRiverStatePark/).

At our picnic we will compile a plant list for the area using the Wildflower Show list of riparian species as a starting point. See you then and there!

The Water-Wise and Habitat Friendly Garden Tour on May 5 was fabulous! We could not have asked for better weather. So many plants were blooming gloriously, and there were quite a variety of pollinators out and about including carpenter bees and Painted Lady Butterflies. Garden owners had fun sharing their gardens and stories with the visitors, with lots of compliments from everyone.

Melinda Teves and Ann Elliott want to thank the garden owners for opening their yards and the volunteer hosts who helped answer questions and interpret the garden features.

A dozen photographers submitted their best photos of the tour for a contest. Check them out on the Chapter’s website. Mylie Hoff, age 9, submitted a photo of Rob Schlising’s cobweb thistle in bud (Cirsium occidentale, above) for the Grand Prize.

State CNPS has a garden ambassador program. More gardeners throughout the state are joining, offering periodic tours and workshops to encourage and demystify native plant gardening. Check out CNPS.org.
**Summer Field Trips**

**Butte Creek BLM Trail  June 1 Saturday**
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) west lot in time to leave by 9 am. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. Drive east on Hwy 32 to Garland Road. From Garland road we go south to the trailhead in Butte Creek Canyon. This is an easy 3-mile roundtrip walk through several habitats along a section of scenic Upper Butte Creek. The trail winds through a narrow band of riparian vegetation containing a variety of flowering plants. A mixed coniferous forest with California nutmeg and Pacific yew extends up the rugged canyon walls. On a sunny south-facing slope we hope to see the rare pink *Allium sanbornii*, a List 4.2 plant. Leaders: Margo Lund and Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397

**Butterfly Valley Botanical Area - Plumas National Forest  June 15 Saturday**
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) west lot in time to leave by 8:30 am. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, wear shoes for a bog, and money for ride sharing. We will drive northeast on Hwy. 99 and 70 about 80 miles to arrive at Plumas National Forest Mt. Hough Ranger Station visitor parking lot by 10 am. We will then caravan a short distance to the botanical area, 2900–3700 ft., protected due to its outstanding abundance and diversity of plant life. It is managed to provide the public with an opportunity to enjoy an undeveloped area of profuse floral display. The area features 4 species of insectivorous plants including *Darlingtonia californica* and *Drosera rotundifolia*. There are 12 species of orchids, including lady's slipper, 24 species in the lily family, 9 species of ferns and fern relatives, as well as poppy, buttercup and wild rose. Leaders David Popp 530-990-3703 and Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397.

**Penstemon Species in the Bucks Lake Area  June 29 Saturday**
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) west lot in time to leave by 8:30 am. We will also stop at the Lakeside Market parking lot on Highway 162 just east of Oroville at 9:15 am if you live in the Oroville area and would rather meet us there. And finally, we will stop at Highway 162 and the Four Trees Road if you travel from the Quincy area and would rather meet us there. Wear sturdy shoes, bring lunch, water, insect/sun protection, and money for ride sharing. This will be an auto tour with several stops along the way. From Four Trees Road we will drive up the Oroville Quincy Highway to the Bucks Lake area to see several *Penstemon* species. We have seen 6 different *Penstemon* species along the highway and around Bucks Lake. With the snow it is not certain how many will be in bloom, but we shall see! At the Four Trees Road stop we will also visit the Swayne Hill Lumber Company restored cabins and the Beckwourth Trail. Along Highway 162 near the Grizzly Summit we will be able to see wagon ruts from the wagons that traveled on the Beckwourth Trail. Leader: Linnea Hanson 530-345-6229 or linneachanson@gmail.com.

**Kennedy Meadows and Bogs in Lassen National Forest  July 6 Saturday**
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) west lot in time to leave by 8:30 am. Call the leader for an alternate meeting place. Bring water, lunch, insect/sun protection, and money for ride sharing. Wear footwear suitable for slogging in marshy ground and for short hikes. We will drive up Hwy 32 and turn off to Butte Meadows and Jonesville. We expect to see a great variety of wetland flowers like camas, leopard lily, little elephant heads, veronica, *Triantha occidentalis* (formerly *Tofieldia*), and bog orchid. Also see the insect eating cobra lilies (*Darlingtonia*) near Cherry Hill Campground. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397

**Wilson Lake - Lassen National Forest  July 14 Sunday**
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) west lot in time to leave by 8:30 am. Bring water, lunch, sun / insect protection, a flashlight and money for ride sharing. About sixty-five miles north of Chico, on Hwy 32 and 36, is where we will first visit a small wet meadow near Wilson Lake. We may see hiker's fringed gentian, white bog orchids and other wet area flowers in bloom. The walk will continue around Wilson Lake looking for the rare slender tule, (*Schoenoplectus heterochaetus* [formerly *Scirpus*]). This plant is known in California only in the marshy shallows of Wilson Lake. We may also be able to enter a small ice cave. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397

**Scotts John Creek - Lassen National Forest  July 27 Saturday**
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) west lot in time to leave by 8:30 am. Scotts John Creek is reached by traveling on Hwy 32 about 40 miles to the Butte Meadows area. At an elevation of 5,720 feet we follow the course of Scotts John Creek. We should see a great variety of flowering plants on this easy walk along the creek. We will be looking for the long-stiped campion (*Silene occidentalis* ssp. *longistipitata*), not seen in Butte County from the 1930s until 1988. Wear sturdy shoes. Bring water, lunch, insect/sun protection, and money for ride sharing. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397

**More Field Trips on Page 4**
I’ve been thinking a lot about diversity - pondering the amazing variety in nature. Whether standing among an assemblage of flowers in a colorful grassland outside of Stonyford, taking in the multitude of shapes, sizes and colors, or watching all the crazy, odd looking creatures that congregate around flowers in my garden. These thoughts about diversity are on my mind as the daily news brings us the dramatic realization of climate change and its huge impacts, along with the recently released report by the UN stating that one million species are at risk of becoming extinct within a few decades. Worrisome, sobering and depressing – which makes me even more aware of the complexity, the beauty and the incredible diversity of life around us.

This awareness begins in the early morning when I step out onto the deck with my cup of coffee. I am instantly entranced by the mass of lavender-blue flowers of the Mediterranean Salvia interrupta. The flower stems reach 5’ high and with hundreds of flowers open it creates a sparkly, blue haze when the morning sun shines through the oaks – triggering 3 female Anna hummingbirds to take turns at sipping a little morning nectar.

Close by in the same tiny meadow planting are several plants of the native buckwheat, Eriogonum umbellatum ‘Shasta Sulphur’. Dense mounds are covered with tiny, cheerful, lemon-yellow flowers in small tight heads. Later in the day as the temperatures warm, the activity of flies, bees, wasps, beetles and butterflies on these two small plants never fails to capture my attention. Just before the evening sun begins to set behind the canyon wall I often find myself settled on a short stool nestled against the buckwheats, just watching interactions of the ever changing cast of flower visitors – 5 native bees, 6 different flies, 3 butterflies, several wasps and a few tiny beetles visit for nectar. All this on a plant 1’ high and 2’ across. A lively community it is - eating, resting, mating, arguing over flowers.

The flowers of the buckwheat and salvia could not be more different. While they have essentially the same flower parts – stigmas, stamens, petals, ovaries - how they’ve evolved to be so different amazes me. The buckwheat flower is a few millimeters across – the salvia much larger. An umbel consisting of nearly 30 buckwheat flowers roughly equals the size of one of the salvia flowers. The nectar of the buckwheat is very accessible to its myriad of flower visitors, while bees in search of salvia nectar have to travel nearly an inch down the throat of the flower. Hummingbirds have it much easier.

Over and over again, when hiking or enjoying the garden, questions arise - why is there so much diversity in our flowers and pollinators – the culmination of a long relationship between flowering plants and pollinators. 130 million years ago flowers realized that producing millions of pollen grains to be carried by the wind in hopes of finding another of the same species to complete pollination was wasteful and took a lot of energy. A more efficient way was to encourage flying insects to take on the task of moving pollen from flower to flower. Thus began a very successful relationship. Through trial and error - of what works and what doesn’t work to continue the species (for both plants and insects) currently an estimated 300,000 plants require or use pollinators. Flowers took on this challenge of how to attract pollinators by having brighter colored flowers, producing pollen and nectar as an enticement, often along with fragrance or some form of chemical release to alert and attract. And after 130 million years we look around in gardens and natural landscapes to see the hugely varied results of this flower/insect relationship. Insects have adapted to changes in flowers while flowers adapted to their pollinators and all the while both evolving to changing climates and ecosystems.

One small, but local example of a plant that makes me pause and wonder about its incredible design, colors and proportions is Monardella vilosa. A plant thought to be extinct in Butte County until rediscovered by Barbara Castro and Lawrence Janeway in the 90’s. While I’ve only seen it in a garden setting (Rob Schlising’s) it still makes me pause and wonder at its elegantly designed flower, unlike any other monardella. Why did it evolve with a calyx of translucent ‘windows’ edged in red?

We are part of this great biodiversity. This current depletion of species in the world impacts us in direct and also undefinable ways. We are diminished as a result of biodiversity loss. As the biologist E.O. Wilson wrote “Whether a species offers immediate advantage or not, no means exist to measure what benefits it will offer during future centuries of study, what scientific knowledge or what service to the human spirit.”

Our spirit – yes. So while I do get depressed and saddened over the state of the world, at the same time my spirit is lifted daily by the great beauty and diversity that surrounds us. The awareness and awe of nature does not lessen the concerns for the future – it heightens them. It is not an attitude of ‘see it while you can before it is gone’, but one of having a sense of wonder of what surrounds us which maybe translates in some action, such as trying to live more simply.

Take your time this summer, whether in your gardens, or on the trail, to enjoy this great diversity - often easily observed in the company of flowers.
Six of us wandered the trails of the burned Magalia Serpentine hillside on April 27 looking for sprouting seedlings, sprouting shrubs, and blooming flowers. At first was the large patch of rare, CNPS List 1B.2, dissected-leave toothwort (*Cardamine pachystigma var. dissectifolia*) and then many more plants scattered among the rocks, more than before the fire. In the same area were small seedlings of the McNab cypress (*Hesperocyparis macnabiana*). How many of those seedlings will survive through the hot, dry summer? Areas on the hillside were covered with sheets of bluedicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*) and pussy ears (*Calochortus tolmiei*). It was obvious that the many Sierra fawn lilies (*Erythronium multiscapideum*) and the rare, CNPS List 3.2, Butte County fritillary (*Fritillaria eastwoodiae*) had also not been harmed by the fire and had bloomed earlier in the season. As we descended, it became a challenge to identify sprouts of shrubs such as California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Fremont’s silk tassel (*Garrya fremontii*) and others. In a seep, grew shield-bracted monkey-flower (*Mimulus glaucescens*, now *Erythranthe glaucescens*) and close by snub pea, (*Lathyrus sulphureus*) both blooming happily. On the trail we passed blooming broad-leaved stonecrop (*Sedum spathulifolium*) and western buttercup (*Ranunculus occidentalis*). Perhaps the highlight of the blooming flowers was the Kellogg’s monkey flower (*Diplacus kelloggii*) discovered when recovering a dropped book which slid down the steep hillside during the lunch stop.

Periodic fires are necessary for the regeneration of many California species, and although the Camp Fire was particularly vicious and devastating to humanity, the discoveries on this field trip brought hope and anticipation of the botanical recovery of this special place.

Snow Mountain Wilderness - Mendocino National Forest August 3 Saturday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) west lot in time to leave by 8 am. The road to Snow Mountain may be washed out due to winter storms. Call John Whittlesey one to two weeks prior to this trip to be sure the road has been repaired in time for this trip. Plan for all day. Bring sturdy shoes, lunch, water, sun/insect protection, and money for ride-sharing. We will drive from Chico and hike into the Snow Mountain Wilderness. This is the southernmost alpine zone in the Coast Range. It is notable, botanically, for having many species of plants that are also seen at the southernmost limits of the Sierra Nevada Range. We’ll hike from the Summit Springs Trailhead, 5200 ft, and take the moderate 2.5-mile hike to Snow Mountain at 7038 ft elev. We may not reach the summit of Snow Mountain, but the beautiful vistas and interesting plants to be seen make the trip worthwhile. Call for alternate meeting place. Leader: John Whittlesey 530-774-4955

South Caribou Wilderness - Lassen National Forest August 24 Saturday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) west lot in time to leave by 8 am. Bring lunch, water, sun/insect protection, hiking gear, and money for ride sharing. From Chico we will be traveling 70 miles northeast to Chester’s Holiday Market for a rest stop and meet up at 9:45 am. We will hike a loop route about 4.5 miles in an open lodgepole pine-fir forest at 6,800 ft. elev. Along the way, we will be visiting several beautiful little lakes with a surprising array of wildflowers. Leader: Woody Elliott 530-588-2555 woodyelliott@gmail.com

Ridge Lakes - Lassen Volcanic National Park September 7 Saturday
Meet at Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/99) west lot in time to leave by 8:30 am. Call the leader for an alternate meeting. Take a lunch, water, sun/wind/insect protection, and money for ride sharing. We will drive Hwy 32 and 36 to Hwy 89, 74 miles to the Lassen Park southwest entrance Visitor Center for a rest stop. Ridge Lake trailhead is at the Sulfur Works parking lot, 1 1/2 miles north of the Visitor Center. Experience an alpine high with minimum of effort. You will however, have to work because the elevation gain is 1,000 ft over a mile’s distance of trail. The trail is clean and easy to follow and we will make many stops to view flowers and view spectacular vistas. The two Ridge Lakes lie cupped in a stark high country bowl at the base of a bony ridge between two of Lassen Park’s major peaks. We return the same way. Leader: Marjorie McNairn 530-343-2397

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Native Bees as Pollinators

Friends of the Chico State Herbarium will present a full-day workshop on “Native Bees as Pollinators” this summer—in late July or early August.

The date will depend on when the snowpack in high Butte County melts, because an optional field trip to see native bees on flowers (and nesting) will be scheduled for the day following the workshop on the Chico State campus. Please check the Friends’ website for announcement of this bee workshop.

www.friendsofthechicostateherbarium.com

Help Wanted

Several key leadership positions in Mt. Lassen Chapter are open or will open next January. Please consider joining the Chapter’s team to keep field trips, general meetings, community outreach, biennial wildflower show, garden tours and workshops going for our community.

There are immediate openings for Secretary, Membership, and Newsletter Editor. In November we will select all new officers, as all those in place will have reached their term limits.

These businesses support the goals of CNPS. Members get 10% discount on plants.

Officers & Chairs

ELECTED OFFICERS

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CHAIRS

Conservation / Web Administrator / Chapter Council Delegate / Programs Co-Chair

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Membership Form

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter  new __
renew ____

Name _________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________

City __________________________________________________

State _____ Zip _________ Phone ______________________

Email _________________________________________________

Send Membership Form to:
California Native Plant Society
Attn: Membership
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5130

Individual........................$50
Plant Lover..........................$120
Supporter.............................$500
Student / Fixed Income............$25

For memberships for organizations or to become a Perennial monthly-sustainer go to CNPS.org.

Calendar 2019

June
1 - Butte Ck BLM Trail 9am
5 - Indian Fishery B-SRSP 5pm
Annual Picnic/Plant List
15 - Butterfly Valley PNF 8:30am
29 - Penstemon- Bucks L. 8:30am

July
6 - Kennedy Mdws & Bogs 8:30am
14 - Wilson Lake 8:30am
27 - Scotts John Ck Lassen NF 8:30

August
3 - Snow Mountain 8am
21 - Exec. Board Meeting 7pm
24 - S. Caribou Wilderness 8am

September
4 - General Meeting 7pm
Summer Adventure Slides
7 - Ridge Lakes LVNP 8:30am